

---

# News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2017

Contact: Steve Lambert, The 20/20 Network  
(909) 841-7527/ [steve@the2020network.com](mailto:steve@the2020network.com)



## ***28<sup>th</sup> annual Demographic Workshop to explore extraordinary volatility and uncertainty surrounding shifting immigration policies, robotics & technology***

The impact of immigration policy changes, automation and artificial intelligence on Southern California's workforce and economy will be dissected by some of the region's top economists and demographic experts Monday at the University of Southern California.

"Volatile Demographics: How High & How Low" is the theme of the 28<sup>th</sup> annual Demographic Workshop, hosted by the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) and the USC Sol Price School of Public Policy. The day-long event begins at 8:30 a.m. at the Ronald Tutor Campus Center.

The conference will address the extraordinary volatility and uncertainty of the post-recession era, accentuated by economic and demographic shifts, as well as new policies of the Trump Administration. Concerns include the puzzling failure of fertility to rebound from its recession lows, as well as the uncertain course of immigration that had begun to rebound but now is being shifted by major policy changes.

All of that compounds an already complex economic and employment environment, in which artificial intelligence and automation are gradually making their way into many of the six-county Southern California region's key industries.

"We are in the midst of one of the greatest economic, social and cultural transformations the United States and the world have ever experienced," said Hasan Ikhata, SCAG Executive Director.

"Understanding the changing paradigm is critical for us as a region if we're going to remain the global leader we've been."

Margaret Finlay, President of SCAG and Mayor of Duarte, said the challenges being addressed at the conference ultimately reflect our values as a region.

"What it really comes down to is quality of life," Finlay said. "Southern California's diversity has always been one of our greatest assets and selling points. Maintaining and building upon that is essential to our viability as a larger community, and that begins by understanding the multitude of dynamics that are in play."

Specific topics being addressed at the conference include:

- Demographic trends under the Trump Administration.

- Fertility rate: How low can it go?
- Immigration, workforce and housing: How big a change? What additional labor can be cultivated?
- Impact of robotics and artificial intelligence on the workforce
- Applying big data in demographics

Speakers include Dowell Myers, Director of the Population Dynamics Research Group at the Sol Price School; Ethan Sharygin, from the State Census Data Center; and Michael Bracken, Managing Partner and Chief Economist for Development Management Group Inc.

Registration is \$100 at the door. Elected officials can participate for free.

###

***About SCAG***

SCAG is the nation's largest metropolitan planning organization, representing six counties, 191 cities and more than 18 million residents. SCAG undertakes a variety of planning and policy initiatives to plan for a livable and sustainable Southern California now and in the future. For more information about SCAG's regional efforts, please visit [www.scag.ca.gov](http://www.scag.ca.gov).